

# The MASSACRE Of A NATION

All of the Horrors, Tortures  
and Barbarities of History  
Surpassed in List of Cruelties  
Practiced by Turks on  
Defenseless Armenians.



MAP SHOWING CITY OF VAN IN  
ASIATIC TURKEY

**S**URPASSING in horror the frightful days of the Spanish Inquisition, the tortures American Indians inflicted upon early settlers, the barbaric practices of Asiatic or African tribes, and even the cruelties that the Turks themselves have committed in other days are the stories of the Armenian massacres and other rites of savagery that Turks have been committing upon the Armenian population of their nation.

Every successive piece of evidence that comes to the United States increases the horror of the story and confirms the dreadful certainty of its truth.

Five thousand refugees who had escaped the Turks by hook or crook were carried from the fated country by a single French battleship and landed in Egypt. Many others made use of little native boats and bamboo rafts and in them escaped to Egypt, where they found shelter in a city of tents.

Men, women and children have been tortured and killed by the thousands. Whole villages of Armenians have been dragged from their homes under conditions that make the sufferings and the sorrows of the French who were deported from Grand Pre by the English as told by Longfellow in his "Evangeline" seem like a pleasant summer's excursion.

Women have suffered all the degradations that barbaric man could heap upon them. Their virtue has been violated, they have had their children torn from their breasts and flung into raging fires, and the younger of them have been herded into harems.

Old men have been shot, stabbed, burned at the stake. Even dignitaries of the church have been cremated alive in public squares. Fathers and sons have been lined up one behind the other and shot through and through. Men have had their feet beaten until they swell up and burst, have had their teeth flung down, their finger and toenails pulled out, and have had hot irons strapped to their chests.

Whole villages have been surrounded by Turkish and Kurdish troops, the population has been put to the knife and the village ransacked and burned. If the most horrible of the reports are true, women and children who gathered in barns for shelter came to awful deaths when the barns were set afire. And the worst of it is the officers who have carried out these atrocities against the Armenian population maintain that they have been working under the orders of the present Turkish government itself.

Following is the text of the Turkish government order covering the massacres: Article 2—"The commanders of the army, of independent army corps and of divisions, may, in case of military necessity, and in case they suspect espionage or treason, send away, singly or in mass, the inhabitants of villages or towns and install them in other places."

The orders of commanders have been reasonably humane, but the execution of them has for the most part been unnecessarily harsh, and in many cases accompanied by horrible brutality to women and children, to the sick and the aged. Whole villages were deported at an hour's notice with no opportunity to prepare for the journey, not even in some cases to gather together the scattered members of the family, so that little children were left behind.

At the mountain village of Geben the women were at the washbasins and were compelled to leave their wet clothes in the water and to take to the road barefooted and half-dressed as they were. In Hadlin well-to-do people who had prepared food and bedding for the road were obliged to leave it in the street, and afterward suffered greatly from hunger.

"In many cases the men were bound tightly together with ropes or chains," says one refugee. "Women with little children in their arms or in the last days of pregnancy were driven along under the whip like cattle. Three different cases came under my knowledge where the women were delivered of

children along the road and, because her brutal driver hurried her along, she died of hemorrhage. I also know of one case where the gendarme in charge was a humane man and allowed the poor woman several hours' rest and then procured a wagon for her to ride in.

"Some women became so completely worn out and hopeless that they left their children by the roadside. Many women and girls have been outraged. At one place the commander of gendarmes openly told the men to whom he consigned a large company that they were at liberty to do what they chose to the women and the young girls."

"I was called to a house one day," says another refugee, "to see a sheet which came from the prison and which was being sent to the wash. This sheet was covered with blood and was running in long streams. I also saw clothes which were drenched and exceedingly dirty. It was a puzzle to me what they could possibly have done to the prisoners, but I got to the bottom of the matter with the help of two very reliable persons who witnessed part of it themselves."

"The prisoner is put in the room. Gendarmes standing in twos at both sides and two at the end of the room administer in turn bastinadoes as long as they have strength left in them. At the time of the Romans, forty strokes were administered at the most. In this place, however, 200, 300, 500, even 800, strokes are administered. The foot swells up, then bursts open, due to the numerous blows and thus the blood spurts out. This prisoner is then carried back to prison and brought to bed by the best of the prisoners. This explains the bloody sheet."

"The prisoners who become unconscious after the blows are revived through the means of some cold water which is thrown on their heads and which accounts for the wet and dirty clothes."

"On the next day, or, more exactly, during the night—as all ill-treatments are carried on during the night—the whole bastinadoing is carried on again in spite of the swollen feet and the wounds. In one prison there were thirty prisoners and all their feet were in such a state that they began to burn and had to be amputated or were already taken off. One young man was beaten to death in the space of five minutes."

"Apart from the bastinadoing other means were employed, such as putting hot irons on the chest. A forger who was suspected of having forged the



ARMENIAN REFUGEES IN THE  
AMERICAN MISSION



PHOTOGRAPHS BY  
BRIDGEMAN & UNDERWOOD  
SEVERAL THOUSAND ARMENIAN REFUGEES  
SUCCEEDED IN ESCAPING THE ORGANIZED  
TURKISH MASSACRES DIRECTED AGAINST THEM  
AND WITH THE AID OF A FRENCH CRUISER  
MADE THEIR WAY TO EGYPT



RUINS OF CITY OF VAN

children follow the police about like a lot of vultures and seize anything they can lay their hands on, and when the more valuable things are carried out of a house by the police they rush in and take the balance.

"I have just been talking with a young man who has been performing his military service on the construction of roads. He told me that all the Armenians in his section, about 180, were separated from the other workmen and marched off some distance from the



THIS PICTURE, JUST RECEIVED HERE, SHOWS HOW SOME OF THE ARMENIAN  
REFUGEES WERE LANDED IN EGYPT.

shells of the bombs was released only after his toes were burned off with sulphur. I have seen the wounds."

Another witness tells of what happened in a village inhabited by Gregorian and Catholic Armenians and Turks. A wealthy and influential Armenian, together with his two sons, were placed one behind the other and shot through. Forty-five men and women were taken a short distance from the village into the valley. The women were first outraged by the officers of the gendarmes and then turned over to the gendarmes to dispose of. A child was killed by beating its brains out on a rock. The men were all killed and not a single person survived from a group of forty-five.

"The best looking of the older girls," continues this witness, "who were retained as caretakers in the orphanages are kept in houses for the pleasure of the members of the gang which seems to rule things here. I hear on good authority that a member of the Young Turks party has ten of the handsomest girls in a house in the central part of the city for the use of himself and his friends."

"The one thousand Armenian houses are being emptied of furniture by police, one after the other. The furniture, bedding and everything of value is being stored in large buildings about the city. There is no attempt at classification and the idea of 'keeping the property in the hands of the protection of the government to be returned to the owners on their return' is simply ridiculous. The goods are piled in without any attempt to labeling or systematic storage."

"A crowd of Turkish women and camp and shot. He heard the report of rifles and later was one of the number sent to bury the bodies, which had been stripped of their clothing."

"A number of women and children have lately been thrown up by the sea upon the sandy beach below the walls of the Italian monastery here in — and were buried by the Greek women in the sand where they were found."

Another witness who managed to get to Tiflis reports: "Djevdet Bey, military governor of Van, massacred most of the Christians of Sairt, the details of which nothing is known. On the best of authority, however, it is reported he ordered his soldiers to burn in the public square the Armenian bishop, Eglise Vartavaz, and the Chaldean bishop, Ad-dai Sher."

"In the town of Bitlis the young women and children were distributed among the rabble. The remainder, the useless lot, were driven to the south and are believed to have been drowned in the Tigris. Many Armenians, after firing their last cartridge, either took poison by whole families or killed themselves in their homes in order not to fall into the hands of the Turks. It is in such fashion that the Turks disposed of about 15,000 Armenians at Bitlis."

"In Mush the Turks demanded ransom from the notables of the town. The head men were subjected to revolting tortures. Their finger nails and then their toe nails were forcibly extracted. Teeth were knocked out and in some cases were whittled down, the victims thus being done to death under shocking lingering agony."

came to the scene were assaulted in public before the very eyes of their mutilated men. The shrieks and death cries of the victims filled the air.

"The shortest means employed for disposing of women and children in the various camps was by burning. Fire was set to the sheds in several towns and these absolutely helpless women and children were roasted to death."

"Many women went mad and threw away their children. Some women knelt down and prayed amid the flames which were burning their bodies. Others shrieked for help, which came from nowhere. The executioners, who seemed unmoved by this unparalleled savagery, grasped infants by one leg and hurled them into the fire, calling to the burning mothers, 'Here are your lions.'

"Turkish prisoners who apparently witnessed some of these scenes were hor-

rified and maddened at remembering the sight. The odor of burning flesh, they say, permeated the air for many days.

"In the hill country of Sasun the surviving warriors found themselves surrounded by 30,000 Turks and Kurds. Then followed one of those desperate, heroic struggles for life which have always been the pride of the mountaineers. Men, women and children fought with knives, scythes and stones and anything they could handle. They rolled blocks of stones down the steep slopes, killing many of their enemies. In the frightful hand-to-hand combats women were seen thrusting their knives into the throats of the Turks."

"When every warrior had fallen some of the women, especially the younger ones who were in danger of falling into the hands of the Turks, threw themselves from the rocks, many of them with infants in their arms."

## Child Cannot be "Marked" by Accident to the Mother

**H**EREDITY is the only key to eugenics. The idea that a child may be "marked" by something that happens to its mother before its birth is a superstition; "prenatal culture" is bunk.

All this is set forth in a statement of the American Genetic Association, an organization backed by scientists in government employ. In an issue of the Journal of Heredity, organ of the association, the editor declares that in spite of widespread currency and antiquity, the theory of maternal impressions and prenatal culture finds no sanction in modern biology. That a child should be born with a strawberry mark on its arm is a circumstance, he says, and not the result of the mother's fondness for fruit.

It is useless, the editor affirms, for a mother to attempt to influence the character of her child by her own thoughts or by exercise of her will power; the child's character is due wholly to heredity. He emphasizes that a knowledge of anatomy and physiology shows there is no possible way in which the mother can transmit anything but nourishment to her child, and that she would do the child more good by spending her time in open air exercise before its birth than by "willing" what she wants it to be. Darwin and other scientists are quoted in support of the statement that maternal impressions are a myth and it is further declared that most of the events to which "marks" are ascribed occur at a time when it is physically impossible that they should produce the effect ascribed to them.

Such a case, the writer states, as one recently reported where a child's body was covered with scales was due to an abnormal condition of the skin, the result of hereditary affection, and not to the mother's fondness for fish.

Likewise, he declares, it is useless for a mother to attempt to influence the character of her child by her own thoughts or the exercise of her will power. If a mother strives to implant fondness for music in the child by playing, singing or studying music, she is laboring under a delusion. If the child has musical talent, the mother will ascribe this to her "prenatal culture."

"But if she would examine the child's heredity," to quote the article, "she would probably find a taste for music running in the germ-plasm. Her study and practice had not the slightest effect on this hereditary disposition; it is equally certain that the child would have been born with a taste for music if its mother had devoted eight hours daily to cultivating thoughts of hatred for the musical profession and repugnance to everything that possesses rhythm or harmony."

To anyone who is capable of scientific thought, says the Journal of Heredity, there is just as much reason to expect the child to grow to resemble the cow on whose milk it is fed after birth as to expect it to grow to resemble its mother because of prenatal influence. As the term is customarily used, for once the development has begun, the child draws nothing more than nourishment from its mother. Therefore attempts to improve the race on a larger scale by the general adoption of prenatal culture as an instrument of eugenics are useless, the writer concludes.